

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims, amendments to the specification and the following remarks.

Present Invention

The present invention's unique, non-uniformly distributed positioning of injection gates, between the inner and outer ring of the plastic-coated roller allows for reduced vibration and noise generation. It is the strategic placement of the injection gates in the present invention that is distinguishable from prior art.

Claim Status and Comments

Claims 1-4 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended herein and will be discussed in more detail below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita, *et al.* (JP 10122339 A) in view of Terada, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,948,340).

As noted by Examiner, Yamashita does not explicitly teach injection gates being non-uniformly spaced apart from one another. However, Examiner turns to Terada to teach non-uniformly spaced injection gates (see Terada, col. 4, lines 38-40). Yamashita discloses injection gates located on the inner ring and Terada discloses injection gates on an inner axial surface (see Terada Figs. 3-5) or on an outer axial surface (see Terada Figs. 1 and 7)

In contrast, the present invention has injection gates arranged between the inner and outer rings. As is shown in Figure 1 and 2, and described in the specification of the present invention (see p. 4, first paragraph under Detailed Description of the Drawings) the injection gates are arranged on the central web between the inner and outer ring. Prior art referenced by Examiner does not disclose any such configuration. Thus, even if Yamashita utilized a non-uniform distribution of injection gates as described in Terada, the placement of the injection gates would still be different from that of the present invention and individually or in combination, the prior art referenced does not disclose the present invention.

Specification


The numbers located at the end of the specification in the Reference section have been updated to match the numbers associated with the figures of the present invention and the rest of the specification.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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